



# Saruni Samburu Factsheet

## Kalama Conservancy, Samburu, Kenya

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Saruni Samburu is a deluxe, design lodge located in Kenya's wild north. It is the only lodge in Kalama Conservancy, which borders Samburu National Reserve, with 200,000 acres of unspoiled wilderness to explore and enjoy exclusively. Perched on a spectacular viewpoint, its six luxury villas are open and spacious, heralding spectacular views over Kenya's Northern Frontier District and Mount Kenya in the distance.

Guests can enjoy the vast panoramas from the dining and lounge area, the two swimming pools and the Samburu Wellbeing Space. Nearby there is a ground-level photographic hide next to a waterhole where the famous Samburu elephant, leopard, reticulated giraffe, Beisa oryx and Grevy's zebra gather to drink. The lodge is admired for its innovative, eco-chic architecture and interesting design and décor, as well as its Italian-inspired cuisine.

You are guided from start to finish by Samburu warriors who are passionate about their land and their culture, learning first-hand about their fascinating customs and traditions and their ancient, local knowledge - a truly authentic experience.

The vastness and purity of this landscape, combined with the untouched local culture, elegant comfort and welcoming hospitality makes for an intimate, exceptional and life-changing experience.





## Accommodation | Experiences | 6 Reasons | Important Information



### ACCOMMODATION

#### 2 x Single Villas

1 x double and 1 x twin (that can become double), both with en-suite bathrooms and dressing rooms, spacious living, dining area and outdoor verandah.

#### 2 x Family Villas

Each containing 2 x en-suite bedrooms with individual dressing rooms and one common large lounge and dining area, as well as several verandahs. This type of villa has one common entrance and cannot be split out for separate use.

#### 2 x Family Villas

These 2 x villas have two separate entrances and can be booked both as a complete unit or individually, guaranteeing each party maximum privacy. Each villa consists of 2 x en-suite bedrooms with individual dressing rooms, a large shared lounge and dining area, as well as several verandahs. The area that connects them can be open or closed, offering two solutions.

*All rooms can fit one extra bed to accommodate children under the age of 16yrs only.*



### EXPERIENCES

- Day and night guided game drives
- Photographic Hide by waterhole
- Guided bush walks
- Bush meals and sundowners
- Birdwatching
- Stargazing
- 2 x large swimming pools
- Samburu Wellbeing Space massages & spa treatments (payable extra)
- Warriors Academy (special programme in bush skills and animal tracking)
- Saruni gift shop with special local artifacts
- Scorpion / night torch safari
- Visit to local Samburu caves featuring ancient rock art
- Seedballs throwing
- Yoga and exercise
- Mount Ololokwe hiking excursions (payable extra)
- Cultural visit to local village & community (payable extra)
- Helicopter excursions (upon request & payable extra)
- Weddings & Blessings (payable extra)

**A Saruni Samburu safari is all-inclusive: full board accommodation, drinks and non payable extra activities.**



# 6 Reasons to visit Saruni Samburu

## ① WOW! Location

Saruni Samburu is located in tribal lands to the north of Samburu National Reserve. The lodge overlooks a vast private wildlife sanctuary called Kalama Conservancy, and has exclusive access to the surrounding 200,000 acres of pristine, protected wilderness.

## ② Incredible Wildlife

The area around Saruni Samburu is teeming with wildlife – from the giant herds of Samburu elephant coming to drink at the waterholes, leopard making their lairs on rocky outcrops nearby, to endangered packs of African wild dog seen traversing the plains below the lodge. The area is also home to rare endemic species, the ‘Samburu Five’: Grevy’s zebra, reticulated giraffe, Beisa oryx, Somali ostrich and gerenuk.

## ③ Fascinating Culture

The Samburu are the indigenous nomadic tribe and custodians of the area where the lodge is found. Guests have the unique opportunity to witness, interact with and learn from one of the oldest remaining tribes in Africa. Our guides are Samburu warriors who are professionally qualified, but more

importantly, who share their authentic local knowledge, ancient traditions and customs with guests.

## ④ Innovative Eco-Design

Saruni Samburu is the first and most exclusive design lodge of its kind in Kenya. It uses eco-design in an architecturally fascinating and innovative way, where it is built into and around a giant volcanic rock face, high up with unbelievable views. It is open and spacious, blending into and becoming a part of the natural surrounding environment. It is bold, dramatic, beautiful and truly unique.

## ⑤ Unique Activities

At Saruni Samburu, guests can enjoy exciting, relaxing and unusual activities. From day and night drives, picnic breakfasts by the Ewaso Nyiro River or bush dinners in a dry river bed with firelight and Samburu dancers, to guided bush walks and visits to the local village and local caves featuring ancient Samburu art. Fancy something more relaxing? Hang out in our elephant-proof, ground-level photographer’s hide in front of a waterhole frequented by elephant, hyena, leopard, plentiful birdlife, and much more. Maybe lounge away your time at the

swimming pools or having a massage at the Samburu Wellbeing Space, browsing around the Saruni shop and night stargazing.....days spent at Saruni Samburu are as peaceful or adventurous as you desire.

## ⑥ Community Focused

Saruni Samburu is the only lodge in Kalama Conservancy, and the sole source of income for the communities found in the area. Since its opening, Saruni Samburu has provided jobs, income, training and guidance for the local Samburu people in the area. Tourism directly supports conservation – by visiting Saruni Samburu, you are directly giving back to the community who protects this beautiful land, improving their quality of life, while at the same time encouraging the purpose for conservation.





## Important information

### How to get there

You can drive or fly to and from Saruni Samburu. Driving from Nairobi takes approximately 5-6 hours. There are numerous flights landing at the two nearest airstrips daily on Safarilink, Air Kenya and private charters. Kalama Airstrip is just 30 minutes away from the lodge. Email us for more information.

### Forms of payment

Saruni Samburu accepts:

- Cash (US\$) newer than 2006, Euro, Sterling, KSH
- Travellers cheques
- Visa & MasterCard credit cards, debit cards

*Please note:*

- There is no surcharge for using a credit card to settle incidentals but a charge applies if settling outstanding daily accommodation costs.
- Please bring cash for gratuities.

### Malaria prevention

Saruni Samburu is a low risk area due to low population density. Mosquito nets are still provided in each room as a precaution. It is each guest's personal decision whether to take preventative medication or not, and one should consult their personal GP if uncertain.

### Tipping guideline

Tips/gratuities are welcomed with enthusiasm and gratitude. A general guideline for tipping is anywhere from US\$5-10 per day per person. This amount will be equally divided between all staff with the exception of the guides. Your personal guide may be tipped directly and this is at your discretion, however a general guideline is around US\$10 per day.

### Electricity at the Lodge

Saruni Samburu runs on solar power, which provides electricity (220V) 24 hours a day. A generator is on stand-by for backup. Guests' electronics can be charged in the villas and in the main areas. The power at the lodge does not support large hairdryers but we are happy to provide you with a compatible hairdryer upon request. We have 3-point British plugs, and recommend guests bring their own converters and universal plug adaptors.

### Communication services

Wi-Fi internet connection is free and available in guests' rooms only. There is no coverage in the common areas. Mobile phone signal is available in some areas of the lodge (Safaricom is best).

### Samburu Climate

Altitude: 2500 ft.

Temperature: Hot days (sometimes very hot), warm nights, low humidity.

Rainfall: approx 250mm per year.

### Meals and cuisine

We cater for all dietary requirements and allergies as informed prior to arrival. The cuisine at Saruni is Italian-inspired and we use fresh and local ingredients, as well as special imported products. We offer communal dining hosted by our guides and managers, however we also encourage private dining in the rooms. Meals will be organised to suit guests' needs so there are no set times. The lodge has a daily three-course set menu. Bottled drinking water is provided in all rooms, at all meals and in all game drive vehicles. Guests also receive a personal aluminium water bottle on arrival that can be filled from various dispensers in camp.

### Saruni Samburu vehicles

At Saruni Samburu we have a fleet of 4x4 Land Rovers for all game drives and transfers, which are open sided for the best game viewing, each with a canvas roof for shade. Guests share vehicles, unless Exclusive Use of a vehicle has been requested (US\$350 per day).

### Languages spoken at Saruni

English and Kiswahili.

### Responsible Tourism

Saruni believes fully and invests significantly in community development and conservation.

- Saruni Samburu works together with the Northern Rangelands Trust to improve the living conditions for the 2,000 local Samburu people who own the Kalama Conservation Area, and is providing them with income generated by tourism for the first time in their history.

- Saruni Samburu is committed to employing most of our staff from this small community. At least 90% of the employees are local Samburu men and women and are trained by the lodge.

- The lodge has been designed and built in an eco-friendly way to achieve minimum impact on the environment.

- Saruni Samburu has provided the Kiltimany Primary School with a new water-tank and we are sponsoring one of their best students for further studies. In several other areas there is a strong bond between the lodge and Kiltimany.

- Saruni Samburu pays the salaries of 2 x Kalama Conservancy rangers to help the community.